Greenwood Chemical Company

EPA Region 3
Virginia
Albemarle County
Newton

EPA ID# VAD003125374

5th Congressional District

Last Update: August 2002

Other Names: None

Current Site Status

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has divided the site into separate management units called Operable Units (OU's). Under EPA’s supervision, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) completed an OU4 (deep soil) Focused Feasibility Study (FFS) in January 2002. The FFS identifies and evaluates various cleannup alternatives for OU4. A proposed Remedial Action Plan (PRAP) is being prepared which describes the preferred cleanup alternative for the deep soil operable unit. The PRAP will also include the final remedy for the groundwater, surface water and remaining lagoons (OU-2). The PRAP is projected for issuance in fall 2002. The groundwater pump and treat system operation is in its second year of full-scale operation.

Site Description

The Greenwood Chemical Site located in Albemarle County, Virginia (5th Congressional District) is an 18 acre site which produced

chemicals for applications in industrial, agricultural, pharmaceutical and photographic processes from the late 1940's until 1985. Manufacturing activities ceased in April 1985 following a toluene vapor explosion and fire which destroyed the process building and resulted in the death of four workers. Starting in the early 1980's, the Virginia State Department of Health began to investigate the Site given reports of unauthorized and poorly managed waste disposal practices. By summer 1986, conditions at the site had worsened to the point where emergency response by EPA was deemed necessary. Greater than 600 leaking and deteriorated drums both at the surface and buried were identified along with seven uncontrolled waste water treatment/disposal lagoons with elevated concentrations of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) [toluene and benzene] and semi-VOC’s (naphthalene). Groundwater beneath the site is contaminated and threatens nearby residential water supply wells. An estimated 1,600 people live within a three mile radius of the site and rely on groundwater as the sole source of drinking water. EPA routinely performs sampling of residential wells.

Site Responsibility

Cleanup of this site is the responsibility of the Federal government.

NPL Listing History

This site was proposed to the National Priorities List of the most serious uncontrolled or abandonded hazardous waste sites requiring long term remedial action on January 22, 1987. The site was formally added to the list July 22, 1987, making it eligible for federal cleanup.

Threats and Contaminants

Specific contaminants detected in on-site ground water and soils include VOCs such as toluene and chloroform in addition to semi-VOCs such as naphthalene and inorganic contaminants such as arsenic from former plant operations. On-site lagoon sludge contains VOCs, including toluene and benzene, semi-VOCs, and cyanide. Potential health threats include accidental ingestion of or direct contact with contaminated ground water, soils and sludges contaminated with volatile organic, semi-volatile organic and inorganic compounds.

Contaminant descriptions and associated risk factors are available on the Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry, an arm of the CDC, web site at http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/hazdat.html EXIT disclaimer

Cleanup Progress

Starting in 1987, EPA initiated emergency response actions which included the excavation and disposal of an estimated 500 previously buried drums, removal and disposal of an estimated 100 surface drums, drainage and treatment of liquids from three lagoons, removal and stabilization of sludges and soils from three lagoons, and removal and disposal of all shock-sensitive, explosive, highly flammable or highly toxic materials remaining on site. In 1992, the EPA began demolishing several existing structures including former chemical manufacturing buildings. This activity also included the removal and off-site treatment/disposal of all remaining abandoned chemicals stored in and around the buildings. The transportation and off-site disposal of contaminated building materials (over 100 roll-off containers) was completed in early 1993.

During early 1996, a contaminated soil remediation project was initiated. The project included excavation of approximately 15,000 tons of soil from seven discrete source areas including former disposal lagoons, pits and trenches. The USACE managed this project on behalf of EPA. This soil was transported from the site to a rail transfer station where it was placed in railcars for final shipment to a hazardous waste incinerator in Utah for treatment and disposal. The soil removal was completed in September 1996. The next major step in the remediation process is the construction and operation of a ground-water/lagoon water pump and treat system. As of December 1997, additional field characterizations of deep soils contamination are complete. Residential well sampling was conducted in December 1998 and results were distributed in March 1999. An EPA/ Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry (ATSDR) public availability meeting was held March 18, 1999 to discuss community health concerns relative to the site after residents continued to worry about past exposures. Construction of the groundwater/surface water pump and treat system was initiated in fall 1998 and completed summer 2000. Full scale operation of the pump and treat system began in March 2001. Routine sampling of site monitoring wells and off-site

residential wells will continue. It has been determined that lagoons 4 and 5 will be closed.. The plan for lagoon closure will be described in the Proposed Remedial Action Plan (PRAP) for OU-2 and OU-4.The PRAP is projected for issuance in fall 2002.

Contacts

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The detailed Administrative Record can be examined at the following locations:

Crozet Branch Library
Box 430, Route 240
Crozet, VA 22932

Jefferson-Madison Regional Library
201 East Market Street
Charlottesville, VA 22553

U.S. EPA Region III
6th Floor Docket Room

1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-2029
Please call 215-814-3157 for an appointment.